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the very limited discussion of the ordinary text-book, and especially to mariners of all nations whose business takes them into those seas of the Far East, which are the home of the dreaded typhoon.
R. DEC. W.

Report on the Climate and Weather of Baltimore and Vicinity. By Oliver L. Fassig. Maryland Weather Service. Special Publication, Vol. II, Part 1a. 4to. Baltimore, 1904. Pp. 29–147, Figs. 38, Pls. VII.

In 1899 there was published, as Volume I of the Maryland Weather Service, the most elaborate report which has ever been issued by any State Weather Service in this country. In the Preface to that volume Professor W. B. Clark, of Johns Hopkins University, the Director of the Maryland Weather Service, said: "The present volume is the first of a series of reports dealing with the climatic features of Maryland. Much work has already been done in the preparation of the subsequent volumes, and they will follow from time to time as the investigations are completed." We now have before us Vol. II, Part 1a, a *Report on the Climate and Weather of Baltimore and Vicinity*, by Dr. Oliver L. Fassig, Section Director of the United States Weather Bureau, and also in charge of the instruction in Meteorology and Climatology at Johns Hopkins University, a man well equipped for such a task as he has here accomplished.

In his *Handbuch der Klimatologie*, Vol. I, Dr. Hann, the leading climatologist of the world, has enumerated the data which it is necessary to present in order that a complete account of the climate of any locality may be given. The list of these data is not a short one, and it has thus far been given in its entirety for comparatively few stations, and those in Europe. For this country, until the publication of Dr. Fassig's report on the climate of Baltimore, we had nothing approaching such completeness of climatic presentation. Our author has therefore blazed a new trail for himself, in so far as the United States are concerned, and he deserves, and will receive, the thanks of his fellow-workers in Meteorology and Climatology for the valued example which he has set, and which it is hoped may be followed in many other places. And Dr. Hann may well be gratified to see the lessons which he has taught in his invaluable *Handbuch* so well-learned and applied. One who is familiar with the *Klimatologie* will recognize the inspiration gained from that book throughout the present volume on the climate of Baltimore.

The general plan of the report is to give a complete presentation of the climatic conditions of Baltimore, as determined by the regular Weather Bureau observations in that city (thirty years), supplemented, in some cases, by a longer series of records from 1817 on. The present volume concerns pressure and temperature, the remaining factors—humidity, cloudiness, precipitation, winds and electrical phenomena—being reserved for a later issue, which is now in press. In general, each element is discussed from the point of view of (1) its regular annual and diurnal periods, and (2) its non-periodic periods of long or short duration. Under temperature, for example, we find the following matters considered: Diurnal march of temperature, mean hourly temperatures (from Richard thermograph); corrections to reduce to the true daily mean; the normal variability for each day, and departures from the normal; the mean diurnal variability; the daily extremes of temperature; monthly and annual means, with departures from the normal values; probable error of monthly and annual means; variability of temperature conditions; frequency of cold and of warm days; analysis of periods of great heat and of great cold; time of occurrence of annual extremes; frosts. This enumeration will serve to give to those unacquainted with the details into which thorough climatological studies should go some idea of the completeness of the discussion of Baltimore climate in the present volume. All these matters are worked out with great care, and are fully illustrated by means of tables, curves and diagrams. Dr. Fassig has made use in several cases of a useful form of diagram employed by Köppen and others in Europe, but seldom used in this country (*e. g.*, isopleths of hourly pressure, p. 36; isopleths of hourly temperature, p. 62; hourly rate of change of temperature, p. 74).

The volume contains much that will interest a Baltimorean who wishes information concerning the temperature records of his city; it should serve as a standard for many similar investigations in different cities all over the United States, and it will help to remove the stigma which now rests upon us of being far behind Europe in the completeness and the accuracy of our climatological discussions. We note with particular satisfaction that Part II is to deal with the *weather* of Baltimore, for we have had altogether too much of *annual* and *monthly* and *diurnal* averages, and too little of the irregular, cyclonic variations which are such important weathermakers in our North Temperate Zone. In this connection, in the volume before us, we take pleasure in calling special attention to the emphasis laid on cyclonic controls in the discussion of the effect of cloudiness and rain on the hourly variations of temperature (pp. 66–68, with typical curves), and in the typical barograms (Pl. II) and thermograms (Pl. V), although the latter diagrams are crude and hardly up to the general standard of the book as a whole.

R. DeC. W.

Geschichte und Herkunft der schweizerischen Alpenflora. Eine Uebersicht ueber den gegenwaertigen Stand der Frage. By Marie Ch. Jerosch. pp. 253. Leipzig, 1903. W. Engelmann (8 marks).

This work is in the nature of a critical compendium of the materials derived from all sources bearing upon the problem stated in the title, "The History and Origin of the Swiss Alpine Flora." By "Alpine" we are to understand that flora, the species of which have their occurrence-centres (Schwerpunkt) above the timber limit, which, in the Swiss Alps, has an average elevation of 1900 meters. The author has had no mean task before her in collating and digesting the very large amount of literature contributory to the solution of the problem stated. Evidences have been gathered from all sources; the hypotheses based upon them have been critically examined, and the conclusions, so far as it has been possible to draw them in the light of present knowledge, have been set forth. The character of the material makes the book of interest and value not alone to the botanist, but to the geographer, geologist and palæontologist. Its scope may be briefly stated as follows:

In Chapter I, the author states the aim of her work, and discusses the conceptions and assumptions pertinent thereto.

The features of the Swiss Alpine and Arctic climates are stated and compared in Chapter II.

Chapter III deals with the history of the Diluvium. Accepting Penck's earlier division of this period into three glacial and two interglacial epochs, the attempt is made to form an estimate of the climatic conditions which probably existed at these various times. The view is accepted that at the period of most widespread glaciation, a strip of non-glaciated country existed, which supported, in its cold, wet climate, an arctic and sub-arctic flora. The elements of this were alpine and arctic plants, which, unable to withstand the extremely unfavorable glacial conditions, here mingled together. There is no evidence that phanerogams were able to outlive the